

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

ScholarWorks @ UTRGV

Borderlife - Border Studies Archive

Special Collections and Archives

1994

Cultural Orientations

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.utrgv.edu/borderlife>



Part of the [Sociology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Borderlife - Border Studies Archive, UTRGV Digital Library, The University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections and Archives at ScholarWorks @ UTRGV. It has been accepted for inclusion in Borderlife - Border Studies Archive by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks @ UTRGV. For more information, please contact justin.white@utrgv.edu, william.flores01@utrgv.edu.

Sociology
Dr. Richardson

The Cultural Orientation interviews consisted of five people of a different background. The people I interviewed are as follows: a) Olga, a person born in Mexico, but has lived here at least five years b) Cindy, a Mexican-American born and raised in the Valley; c) Chris, a Mexican-American raised North of the Valley; d) Carol, An Anglo born and raised in the Valley; and e) James, An Anglo raised North of the Valley.

Although these people did not all share similarities I paired them off with those with similarities such as Olga and Cindy . They felt the same way about Anglos. Being mother and daughter, they share many incidents such as one that occurred two years ago. Olga tells us her story.

" I am an educated person. I do not like to be treated like some dumb Mexican. Cindy and I went into a grocery store to buy envelopes. Once we payed for our merchandise the anglo cashier threw our envelopes at us. My daughter called her a name hoping to engage in a disagreement to really tell her how she felt. I then said to my daughter in a voice loud enough to be heard by many, that I was more educated than that cashier ever would be and that there was no need to stoop down to their level."

Both Olga and Cindy agree that not all anglos are racist, some are "just stupid" as Cindy puts it.

Chris, a Mexican-American raised North of the Valley, and Carol, an anglo born and raised in the Valley have similarities. Chris, who's friends are white says " I have never really been around a Mexican Culture. I don't think we are different. We all get along and feel the same way about different issues. We see each other as people not as Mexicans or Anglos." Carol has similar feelings. Two of her friends from her neighborhood are. I see them as my friends not as someone from a different race."

My last interviewee was James Emo. He recently move to elsa from a small town near Dallas. James had a difficult time trying to fit in. He had many friends but didn't feel like he fit in.

" I made many friends but I knew I was different. I love the

Valley, all of my friends families are so close. I wish mine was that way. Everyone kept teasing me. They would call me a bolio or would say I was a wanna-be Mexican when I tried to speak Spanish. Things have gotten better and I feel more at home here."

James, in my view loved the Mexican Culture. He grew to understand why Mexicans did things a little different from the way he did , but he has since caught on since he was the only Anglo attending our high school in Elsa he felt he had to. All these people I interviewed were positive individuals. Their feelings were not extremely different. Each person came from a different culture and subculture giving each one internalized beliefs making act and think in certain ways that would be accepted in their subculture.